

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 9-17, 20, and 21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-6, 9-11, 13-17, 20, and 21 are amended and Claims 7, 8, 18, and 19 are canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; the specification was objected to; Claims 3-6, 10, 14-17, and 21 were objected to; Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1, 2, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Sakurai (U.S. Patent No. 6,400,212 B1); Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sakurai in view of Suda (U.S. Patent No. 5,898,323); Claim 11-13, 18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sakurai in view of Suda and Iwasaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,447); and Claims 8, 9, 19, and 20 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form and to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In view of this indication, independent Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the allowable matter of Claims 8 and 19, respectively. Also, Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the features of Claims 7 and 18, respectively, and Claims 7, 8, 18, and 19 have been cancelled. In addition, Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to omit some features and to recite a current generation circuit, a first load element, a current mirror circuit, and a second load element, consistent with the disclosure in the specification at page 8, lines 3-24, and with Figure 2. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 2 and 5. These sheets, which include Figures 1-5, replace the original sheets including Figures 1-5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2 sheets)

submits that independent Claims 1 and 11 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the applied art.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Figure 2 has been corrected to show " $dI/dT + dI/dT = 0$," which is consistent with the disclosure in the specification at page 7, line 26, to page 8, line 2. No new matter has been added.

Regarding Figure 5, this figure is intended to show the detailed configuration of a circuit unit 23 shown in Figure 2. Original Figure 5 shows only a part of the circuit unit 23. In the original Figure 5, the circuit unit 23 is shown as including a resistor 53, and a voltage V_{REFDC} is shown as being output from an output terminal 54. However, the resistor 53 is not part of the circuit unit 23 and the resistor 53 corresponds to a resistor 24 shown in Figure 2, and the voltage V_{REFDC} corresponds to a first voltage V_1 .

As suggested in the outstanding Office Action in the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3, and based on Figure 10, the circuit shown in original Figure 5 is corrected to show two pairs of transistors. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to the specification, the specification has been amended to be consistent with corrected Figures 2 and 5 without adding new matter. In addition, the Brief Summary of the Invention section has been amended to be consistent with amended Claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

Regarding the claims objection and the rejections of the claims under 35.U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, Claims 1-6, 9-11, 13-17, 20, and 21 have been amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action and to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted these objection and rejections be withdrawn.

Regarding the outstanding rejections on the merits of the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that those rejections are moot because independent Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite the allowed matter of Claims 8 and 19, respectively.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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